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**PATENT**  
Attorney Docket No.: S-12

Date: June 4, 2007

By: /Angela Loding/  
Angela Loding

**IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE**

In re application of: David C. Hovda et al.

Application No.: 10/656,597

Filed: September 5, 2003

For: METHODS AND APPARATUS FOR  
TREATING INTERVERTEBRAL DISCS

Examiner: Peffley, Michael F.

Art Unit: 3739

Confirmation No.: 7953

**INFORMATION DISCLOSURE  
STATEMENT UNDER  
37 CFR §1.97 and §1.98**

Mail Stop Amendment  
Commissioner for Patents  
P.O. Box 1450  
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Sir:

In accordance with 37 C.F.R. 1.56, 1.97 and 1.98, Applicants wish to call the attention of the Examiner to the references that are listed on the attached PTO form 1449.

It is respectfully requested that the cited information be considered during the prosecution of this application, and the references be made of record therein and appear among the "references cited" on any patent to issue there from.

These citations do not constitute an admission that the references are relevant or material to the claims.

This IDS is being filed with a Request for Continued Examination (RCE) on the merits. Accordingly, Applicants believe that no fee is necessary. Should a fee be deemed necessary for submission of this IDS, the Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any fee or credit any overpayments to Deposit Account No. 50-0359 of ArthroCare Corporation in order to effectuate this filing.

Respectfully submitted  
Attorney for Applicants,

/Brian E. Szymczak/  
Brian E. Szymczak  
Reg. No. 47,120

Date: June 4, 2007

CORRESPONDENCE ADDRESS:

CUSTOMER NO.: **21394**

ArthroCare Corporation

(512) 391-3961

FAX (512) 391-3901

<b>PTO-1449</b>  <b>Information Disclosure Citation in an Application</b>				Application No.		Applicant(s)			
				10/656,597		David C. Hovda et al.			
				Docket Number		Group Art Unit		Filing Date	
				S-12		3739		September 5, 2003	
<b>U.S. PATENT DOCUMENTS</b>									
		<b>DOCUMENT NO.</b>	<b>DATE</b>	<b>NAME</b>	<b>CLASS</b>	<b>SUBCLASS</b>	<b>FILING DATE</b>		
	A.	3,633,425	01/11/72	Sanford	73	356	01/02/70		
	B.	4,161,950	7/24/79	Cowan et al.	606	48	8/1/1975		
	C.	4,449,926	5/22/84	Weiss	433	32	11/23/1981		
	D.	4,474,179	10/02/84	Koch	606	40	05/13/82		
	E.	4,907,589	03/13/90	Cosman	606	34	04/29/88		
	F.	5,156,151	10/20/92	Imran	600	375	02/15/91		
	G.	5,261,410	11/16/93	Alfano et al.	600	475	02/07/91		
	H.	5,207,684	5/4/93	Nobles	606	108	4/13/1992		
	I.	5,290,273	3/1/94	Ton	606	9	5/25/1993		
	J.	5,281,216	01/25/94	Kliceck	606	42	03/31/92		
	K.	5,374,261	12/20/94	Yoon	604	385.01	10/23/90		
	L.	5,380,316	01/10/95	Aita	606	7	06/16/93		
	M.	5,389,096	02/14/95	Aita	606	15	02/25/93		
	N.	5,400,267	03/21/95	Denen et al.	702	59	12/08/92		
	O.	5,401,272	03/28/95	Perkins	606	15	02/16/94		
	P.	5,437,662	08/01/95	Nardella	606	40	02/17/94		
	Q.	5,554,152	09/10/96	Aita	606	7	12/20/94		
	R.	5,571,189	11/5/96	Kuslich	623	17.12	5/20/1994		
	S.	5,617,854	4/8/97	Munsif	600	374	6/22/1994		
	T.	5,626,136	5/6/97	Webster, Jr.	600	373	6/7/1995		
	U.	5,762,629	6/9/98	Kambin	604	164.11	5/2/1996		
	V.	5,766,252	6/16/98	Henry et al.	623	17.16	1/24/1995		
	W.	5,807,306	9/15/98	Shapland et al.	604	21	8/16/1994		
	X.	5,820,580	10/13/98	Edwards et al.	604	22	10/3/1996		
	Y.	5,836,875	11/17/98	Webster, Jr.	600	374	10/04/96		
	Z.	5,849,009	12/15/98	Bernaz	606	36	1/31/1997		
	AA.	5,860,974	01/19/99	Abele	606	41	02/11/97		
EXAMINER					DATE CONSIDERED				
EXAMINER: Initial if citation considered, whether or not citation is in conformance with MPEP § 609. Draw line through citation if not in conformance and not considered. Include copy of this form with next communication to the applicant.									

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	A.	5,877,289	3/2/99	Thorpe et al.	530	387.7	6/7/1995
	B.	5,891,134	04/06/99	Goble et al.	606	27	09/24/96
	C.	6,014,584	1/11/00	Hofmann et al.	604	21	1/8/1999
	D.	6,036,681	3/14/00	Hooven	604	506	9/5/1997
	E.	6,045,532	4/4/00	Eggers et al.	604	114	8/7/1998
	F.	6,047,700	04/11/00	Eggers et al.	128	898	05/22/98
	G.	6,086,584	7/11/00	Miller et al.	606	41	9/10/1998
	H.	6,093,187	7/25/00	Lecuyer	606	45	3/31/1998
	I.	6,146,380	11/14/00	Racz et al.	606	41	1/9/1998
	J.	6,174,309	01/16/01	Wrublewski et al.	606	45	02/11/99
	K.	6,176,857	1/23/01	Ashley	606	32	9/22/1998
	L.	6,214,001	4/10/01	Casscells et al.	606	41	4/24/1998
	M.	6,228,078	05/08/01	Eggers	606	32	11/25/97
	N.	6,234,178	05/08/01	Eggers	606	32	11/25/97
	O.	6,237,604	05/29/01	Burnside et al.	128	897	09/07/99
	P.	6,245,107	6/12/01	Ferree	606	61	5/28/1999
	Q.	6,264,650	7/24/01	Hovda et al.	606	32	5/21/1999
	R.	6,264,651	7/24/01	Underwood et al.	606	32	7/1/1999
	S.	6,270,460	08/07/01	McCartan et al.	600	459	06/24/99
	T.	6,277,112	8/21/01	Underwood et al.	606	32	2/20/1998
	U.	6,280,441	08/28/01	Ryan	606	45	12/15/97
	V.	6,308,089	10/23/01	von der Rur et al.	600	338	04/14/99
	W.	6,309,387	10/30/01	Eggers et al.	606	41	05/18/99
	X.	6,330,478	12/11/01	Lee et al.	607	101	9/4/1998
	Y.	6,364,877	04/02/02	Goble et al.	606	34	10/16/98
	Z.	6,402,740	6/11/02	Ellis et al.	606	28	7/20/2000
	AA.	6,416,509	07/09/02	Goble et al.	606	37	03/26/98
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	A.	6,428,576	8/6/02	Haldimann	623	17.16	4/14/2000
	B.	6,464,695	10/15/02	Hovda et al.	606	32	1/19/2001
	C.	6,468,270	10/22/02	Hovda et al.	606	32	9/19/2000
	D.	6,468,275	10/22/02	Wampler et al.	606	48	06/23/00
	E.	6,482,201	11/19/02	Olsen et al.	606	41	07/27/00
	F.	6,497,704	12/24/02	Ein-Gal	606	41	4/4/2001
	G.	6,517,498	02/11/03	Burbank et al.	600	564	07/20/00
	H.	6,540,741	4/1/03	Underwood et al.	606	32	10/4/1999
	I.	6,558,390	5/6/03	Cragg	606	80	2/13/2001
	J.	6,562,033	5/13/03	Shah et al.	606	41	4/9/2001
	K.	6,578,579	06/17/03	Burnside	128	897	05/07/01
	L.	6,589,237	07/08/03	Woloszko et al.	606	41	01/19/01
	M.	6,604,003	8/5/03	Fredricks et al.	607	99	9/6/2001
	N.	6,620,155	9/16/03	Underwood et al.	606	32	2/20/1998
	O.	6,620,156	09/16/03	Garito et al.	606	50	09/20/02
	P.	6,622,731	9/23/03	Daniel et al.	128	898	1/11/2002
	Q.	6,635,087	10/21/03	Angelucci et al.	623	17.11	8/29/2001
	R.	6,645,247	11/11/03	Ferree	623	17.11	6/13/2002
	S.	6,679,886	1/20/04	Weikel et al.	606	79	8/28/2001
	T.	6,712,811	3/30/04	Underwood et al.	606	32	9/30/2002
	U.	6,726,684	4/27/04	Woloszko et al.	606	32	11/8/2000
	V.	6,740,093	5/25/04	Hochschuler et al.	606	94	2/27/2001
	W.	6,746,451	6/8/04	Middleton et al.	606	79	6/1/2001
	X.	6,749,604	06/15/04	Eggers et al.	606	41	03/30/00
	Y.	6,749,608	06/15/04	Garito et al.	606	45	08/05/02
	Z.	6,758,846	7/6/04	Goble et al.	606	41	2/2/2001
	AA.	6,761,718	7/13/04	Madsen	606	50	9/6/2001
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	A.	6,770,071	8/3/2004	Woloszko et al.	606	41	2/9/2001		
	B.	6,772,012	8/3/04	Ricart et al.	607	99	5/3/2001		
	C.	6,780,178	08/24/04	Palanker et al.	600	41	05/03/02		
	D.	6,780,180	08/24/04	Goble et al.	606	41	03/08/00		
	E.	6,802,842	10/12/04	Ellman et al.	606	45	01/02/03		
	F.	6,827,716	12/7/04	Ryan et al.	606	41	9/30/2002		
	G.	6,837,884	1/4/05	Woloszko	606	32	6/18/2002		
	H.	6,837,887	1/4/2005	Woloszko et al.	606	41	1/25/2002		
	I.	6,837,888	1/4/2005	Ciarrocca et al.	606	41	2/25/2002		
	J.	6,878,155	4/12/05	Sharkey et al.	607	96	6/18/2001		
	K.	6,920,883	07/26/05	Bessette et al.	128	898	11/08/02		
	L.	6,929,640	08/16/05	Underwood et al.	606	32	02/24/00		
	M.	6,974,480	12/13/05	Messerli et al.	623	17.11	11/13/2002		
	N.	6,997,885	2/14/06	Lubock et al.	600	567	7/27/2007		
	O.	7,001,431	2/21/06	Bao et al.	623	17.12	2/13/2003		
	P.	7,014,633	3/21/06	Cragg	604	500	5/3/2001		
	Q.	7,108,696	9/19/06	Daniel et al.	606	41	9/22/2003		
	R.	6,949,096	09/27/05	Davison et al.	606	41	01/21/03		
	S.	6,960,204	11/01/05	Eggers et al.	606	32	07/16/03		
	T.	6,974,453	12/13/05	Woloszko et al.	606	41	04/20/01		
	U.	6,991,631	01/31/06	Woloszko et al.	606	41	02/13/03		
	V.	7,004,941	02/28/06	Tvinnereim et al.	606	41	11/07/02		
	W.	7,041,102	05/09/06	Truckai et al.	606	51	05/22/03		
	X.	7,070,596	07/04/06	Woloszko et al.	606	41	10/03/00		
	Y.	7,090,672	08/15/06	Underwood et al.	606	41	07/02/03		
	Z.	7,094,215	08/22/06	Davison et al.	604	22	03/28/03		
	AA.	7,104,986	09/12/06	Hovda et al.	606	32	05/12/03		
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	A.	7,131,969	11/07/06	Hovda et al.	606	45	05/01/00		
	B.	7,169,143	01/30/07	Eggers et al.	606	32	10/20/05		
	C.	7,179,255	02/20/07	Lettice et al.	606	32	12/20/00		
	D.	7,186,234	03/06/07	Dahla et al.	604	22	02/05/02		
	E.	7,192,428	03/20/07	Eggers et al.	606	41	03/20/03		
	F.	7,201,750	04/10/07	Eggers et al.	606	41	05/18/99		
	G.	7,217,268	05/15/07	Eggers et al.	606	32	06/24/03		
	H.	RE33,925	05/12/92	Bales et al.	606	48	12/08/88		
	I.	2002/0049438	4/25/02	Sharkey et al.	606	41	6/29/2001		
	J.	2002/0082698	6/27/02	Parenteau et al.	623	17.16	9/18/2001		
	K.	2002/0120337	8/29/02	Cauthen	623	17.16	4/30/2002		
	L.	2003/0130738	7/10/03	Hovda et al.	623	17.11	11/8/2002		
	M.	2002/0095151	07/18/02	Dahla et al.	606	41	02/05/02		
	N.	2003/0013986	01/16/03	Saadat	600	549	07/12/01		
	O.	2003/0028189	02/06/03	Woloszko et al.	604	045	06/27/02		
	P.	2003/0088245	05/08/03	Woloszko et al.	606	041	11/04/02		
	Q.	2003/0158545	08/21/03	Hovda et al.	606	032	02/25/03		
	R.	2003/0171743	09/11/03	Tasto et al.	606	032	02/21/03		
	S.	2003/0208196	11/06/03	Stone	606	041	05/03/02		
	T.	2003/0212395	11/13/03	Woloszko et al.	606	032	03/05/03		
	U.	2003/0212396	11/13/03	Eggers et al.	606	041	03/14/03		
	V.	2004/0024399	02/05/04	Sharps et al.	606	032	07/08/03		
	W.	2004/0049180	03/11/04	Sharps et al.	606	032	05/13/03		
	X.	2004/0054366	03/18/04	Davison et al.	606	045	09/12/03		
	Y.	2004/0127893	07/01/04	Hovda	606	041	12/11/03		
	Z.	2004/0153057	08/05/04	Davison	600	410	11/13/03		
	AA.	2004/0116922	06/17/04	Hovda et al.	606	041	09/05/03		
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	A.	2004/0186469	09/23/04	Woloszko et al.	606	041	02/05/04		
	B.	2004/0230190	11/18/04	Dahla et al.	604	041	03/12/04		
	C.	2005/0004634	01/06/05	Hovda et al.	606	041	07/29/04		
	D.	2005/0010205	01/13/05	Hovda et al.	606	032	03/12/04		
	E.	2005/0119650	06/02/05	Sanders et al.	424	426	10/20/04		
	F.	2005/0131402	06/16/05	Ciarrocca et al.	600	450	01/03/05		
	G.	2005/0187543	08/28/05	Underwood et al.	606	041	04/25/02		
	H.	2005/0234439	10/20/05	Underwood et al.	606	032	03/25/05		
	I.	2005/0251134	11/10/05	Woloszko et al.	606	032	05/09/05		
	J.	2005/0261754	11/24/05	Woloszko et al.	606	032	04/12/05		
	K.	2005/0288665	12/29/05	Woloszko et al.	606	041	06/24/05		
	L.	2006/0036237	02/16/06	Davison et al.	606	041	06/03/05		
	M.	2006/0095026	05/04/06	Hovda et al.	606	032	09/19/05		
	N.	2006/0095031	05/04/06	Ormsby, T.	606	034	09/22/05		
	O.	2006/0129145	06/15/06	Ormsby et al.	606	041	10/11/05		
	P.	2006/0178670	08/10/06	Woloszko et al.	606	048	01/17/06		
	Q.	2006/0189971	08/24/06	Eggers et al.	606	032	11/23/05		
	R.	2006/0253117	11/09/06	Hovda et al.	128	898	03/09/06		
	S.	2006/0259025	11/16/06	Dahla	607	108	05/16/05		
	T.	2007/001088	01/11/07	Dahla	606	041	07/06/05		
	U.	2007/0010809	01/11/07	Sanders et al.	606	032	08/02/06		
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		DOCUMENT NO.	DATE	COUNTRY	CLASS	SUBCLASS	TRANSLATION		
							YES	NO	
	A.	05/000434	12/20/06	NL	---	---	X		
	B.	01/87154	5/18/01	WO	A61B	5/05	X		
	C.	02/36028	5/10/02	WO	A61B	18/12	X		
	D.	05/125287	12/29/05	WO	A61B	18/00	X		
	E.	515 867	12/2/1992	EP	A61B	17/36	X		
	F.	94/08524	4/28/1994	WO	A61B	17/32	X		
	G.	94/26228	11/24/1994	WO	A61B	17/00	X		
	H.	95/05781	3/2/1995	WO	A61B	17/00	X		
	I.	95/05867	3/2/1995	WO	A61B	17/00	X		
	J.	96/07360	3/14/1996	WO	A61B	17/00	X		
	K.	96/20652	7/11/1996	WO	A61B	18/14	X		
	L.	96/23449	8/8/1996	WO	A61B	17/00	X		
	M.	96/41574	12/27/1996	WO	A61B	17/00	X		
	N.	97/00070	1/3/1997	WO	A61K	31/415	X		
	O.	97/24992	7/17/1997	WO	A61B	18/12	X		
	P.	719162 B1	11/19/1997	EP	A61N	01/05	X		
	Q.	98/00070	1/8/1998	WO	A61B	18/14	X		
	R.	98/03220	1/29/1998	WO	A61B	18/14	X		
	S.	98/14131	4/9/1998	WO	A61B	18/00	X		
	T.	99/03414	1/28/1999	WO	A61B	18/14	X		
	U.	774926 B1	6/9/1999	EP	A61B	17/39	X		
	V.	99/42037	8/26/1999	WO	A61B	18/14	X		
	W.	00/07507	2/17/2000	WO	A61BM	03/02	X		
	X.	00/10475	3/2/2000	WO	A61B	18/14	X		
	Y.	00/62698	10/26/2000	WO	A61B	18/14	X		
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				10/656,597		David C. Hovda et al.			
				Docket Number		Group Art Unit		Filing Date	
				S-12		3739		September 5, 2003	
<b>FOREIGN PATENT DOCUMENTS</b>									
		DOCUMENT NO.	DATE	COUNTRY	CLASS	SUBCLASS	TRANSLATION		
							YES	NO	
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	C.	04/22155	3/18/2004	WO	A61B	18/18	X		
	D.	05/39390	5/6/2005	WO	A61B	18/18	X		
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